

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1, 2, and 3. The sheets, which include Figs. 1-4, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1-4. The term "Related Art" has been added to Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

Attachment: Replacement sheet
 Annotated sheet showing changes

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated March 8, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 21-24, and 29-30 are hereby amended, and Figs. 1-3 are hereby corrected. No new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, claims 1-35 are currently pending. Claims 31-35 have been withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the drawings for minor informalities. Applicants have corrected the drawings accordingly. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action objects to claims 23-24 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 3-4. Applicants have amended claims 23-24 to change the dependency of claims 23-24. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action objects to claims 21 and 29-30 for insufficient antecedent basis for the terms “the upper part”, “the lower part”, and “the coupling portion” in these claims. Applicants have amended claims 21 and 29-30 accordingly. In addition, Applicants have also changed the dependency of claims 21 and 29. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection.

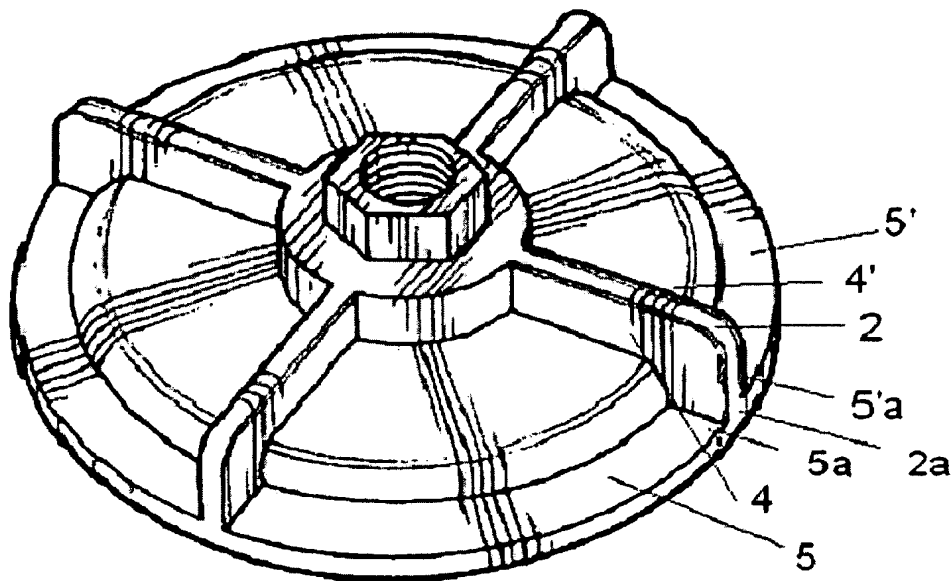
The Office Action objects to claims 26-28 and 30 for insufficient antecedent basis for the terms “the rim” and “the extension member” in these claims. Applicants have amended claim 22 to provide antecedent basis for these limitations. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-21 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. Des. 427,053 to Nelson (hereafter, “Nelson”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As required in Chapter 2131 of the M.P.E.P., in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, “the reference must teach every element of the claim.” Applicants respectfully submit that Nelson does not teach all the elements of claims 1-21 and 23-25. Thus, Nelson cannot anticipate these claims.

More specifically, amended independent claim 1 recites, among other features, “wherein the two sides are non-symmetrical.” Nelson at least fails to teach this feature of claim 1.

Instead, Nelson teaches the end (5a) of the member (5) and the end (5'a) of the member (5') are coupled with the rib (2) at same place of the end portion (2a) of the rib (2). The rib (2) has two sides (4 and 4'). See Nelson, Fig. 1, reproduced below with annotation. The two sides (4 and 4') of the rib (2) are symmetrical. That is, the two sides (4 and 4') are mirror images of each other. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Nelson. Claims 2-21, which variously depend from claim 1, are also allowable over Nelson.



Amended claims 23-25 variously depend from claim 22. Claim 22 is not anticipated by Nelson for reason as discussed below. Accordingly, claims 23-25 are also allowable over Nelson at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 22. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 22 and 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nelson in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,868,079 to Johnson (hereafter, "Johnson"). Applicant respectfully traverse the rejection. Please note amended claims 23-25 depend from claim 22, so claims 23-25 are included in the discussion below.

As required in Chapter 2143.03 of the M.P.E.P., in order to "establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention, all the limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." Applicant respectfully submits that the combined teaching of Nelson and Johnson does not teach or suggest all the features of claims 22-29. Thus, the combined teaching cannot render these claims obvious.

Amended independent claim 22 recites, among other features, "wherein the two sides are non-symmetrical." As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Nelson at least fails to teach or suggest this feature of claim 22.

Johnson does not cure the deficiency of Nelson. Accordingly, claim 22 is allowable over the combined teaching of Nelson and Johnson. Claims 23-30, which variously depend from claim 22, are also allowable over the combined teaching of Nelson and Johnson. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection.

The application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

Application No.: 10/529,239
Amdt. dated June 6, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated March 8, 2007

Docket No.: 9988.219.00

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: June 6, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments



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FIG. 1

-- RELATED ART --

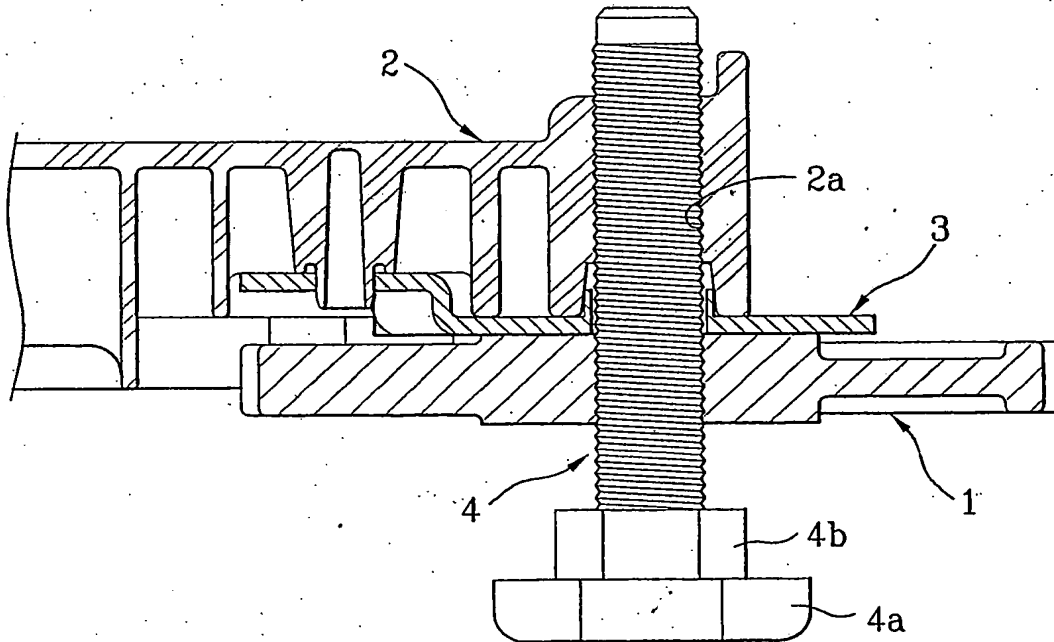
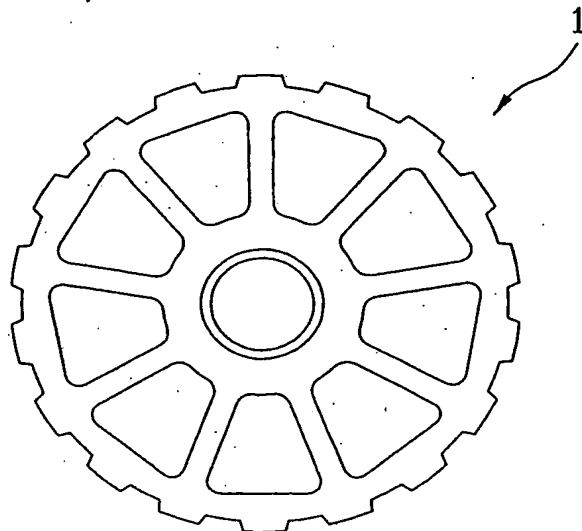


FIG. 2

-- RELATED ART --





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FIG. 3
--- RELATED ART ---

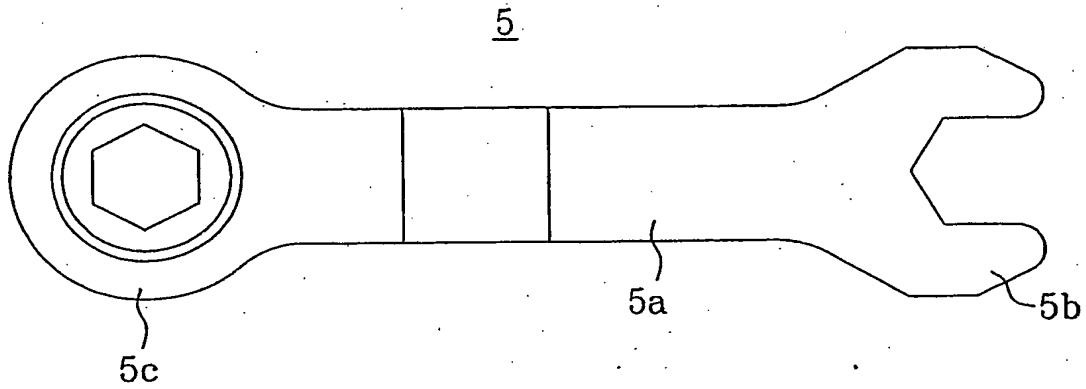


FIG. 4

